

## Message Text

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10

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 ACDA-07 OMB-01 JUSE-00 /042 W

----- 122717

R 021930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5948

INFO TREASURY DEPT WASHDC

US CUSTOMS SERVICE HQ WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 8562

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ON ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING  
IN FIREARMS

1. WITH GRADUAL RISE IN GUERRILLA/OUTLAW VIOLENCE IN MEXICO  
IN PAST FEW YEARS, GOM HAS BECOME UNDERSTANDABLY AGITATED OVER  
EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN FIREARMS ACROSS U.S. BORDER.  
WITH SUPPORT OF U.S. TREASURY OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES, WE  
HAVE UNTIL NOW SUCCEEDED IN ASSURING GOM OFFICIALS THAT WE  
SHARE THEIR CONCERN AND WISH TO COOPERATE CLOSELY IN SUPPRESSING  
THIS TRAFFIC.

2. I AM CONCERNED THAT COOPERATIVE RELATIONS COULD BE UNDONE  
AS RESULT OF OVER-ZEALOUS EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL ON U.S. SIDE.  
TWICE DURING RECENT MONTHS, JURISDICTIONAL CONFUSION OR MIS-  
UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN TWO TREASURY AGENCIES INVOLVED--U.S.  
CUSTOMS AND BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS (BATF)--  
HAVE PRODUCED EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS OF RIVALRY.

3. WHILE I PERSONALLY APPLAUD THE DESIRES OF BOTH TREASURY  
AGENCIES TO PURSUE CLOSE, COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH THE GOM  
IN THIS FIELD, IT IS CLEAR THAT RIVALRY OR JURISDICTIONAL  
CONFUSION WILL INHIBIT THE VERY COOPERATION BOTH WE AND THE  
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MEXICANS SEEK. IF ALLOWED TO GROW, IT WILL EVENTUALLY

ENCOURAGE THE GOM TO PLAY ONE AGENCY AGAINST THE OTHER TO ITS OWN NARROW ADVANTAGE, NOT TO MENTION DUPLICATION OF WORK, POOR COORDINATION, AND A FOOLISH IMPRESSION BEFORE OUR MEXICAN HOSTS.

4. IT SHOULD NOT, IT SEEMS TO ME, FALL TO ME OR TO THIS EMBASSY TO SORT OUT RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND BATF IN THIS REGARD. NEVERTHELESS, FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD CERTAINLY SEEM TO MAKE SENSE THAT CUSTOMS-- WHICH IS ON THE SCENE AND HAS PERSONNEL EXPERIENCED IN THIS AREA--SERVE AT THE PRIMARY TREASURY AGENCY INVOLVED IN GUN SMUGGLING MATTERS AND THAT BATF INVOLVEMENT ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER BE VERY STRICTLY LIMITED TO THOSE CASES IN WHICH ITS COOPERATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE EMBASSY AND CUSTOMS. IN ANY CASE, I BELIEVE IT IS INCUMBENT UPON HIGHER TREASURY AUTHORITIES TO INTERVENE AND SORT OUT RESPONSIBILITIES RATIONALLY.

6. I SHOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY STEPS WHICH TREASURY MIGHT TAKE TO SEE THAT RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND BATF WITH RESPECT TO REPRESENTING TREASURY IN INVESTIGATION AND OTHER DEALINGS WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ON ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFICKING MATTERS ARE APPROPRIATELY DEFINED AND CLARIFIED. PLEASE ADVISE ME OF OUTCOME.

JOVA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, SMUGGLING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JUL 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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